



## Bike Patrol 1996



Captain Jim Peschong



Sergeant Mike Siefkes



Officer Jim Ashley



Officer Mike Bassett



Officer Tom Duden



Officer Brian Hoefer



Officer Charlie Marti



Officer Lance Worley



1996 Midwest Police  
Bike Competition

All Events Champion  
10-27-1996

Officer Charlie Marti  
Officer Lance Worley



### Midwest Bike Competition

The Lincoln Police Bike Patrol participated in the 1996 Midwest Bike Competition in Omaha.

Sergeant Mike Siefkes had a documentary of the event recorded and meets with then Governor Ben Nelson to talk about policing by bike.



Officer Charlie Marti jumps over Sgt. Siefkes during a demonstration at the event.

Officer Brian Hoefer and Officer Charlie Marti compete in the balance event. Officers had to balance their bike for two minutes on the small concrete squares over the water in downtown Omaha.





# Lincoln officers pedal their way to contest win

BY JEFF ZELENY  
Lincoln Journal Star

In five minutes and three seconds, Lincoln police officers Charlie Marti and Lance Worley raced their mountain bikes twice around a quarter-mile track, hoisted the bicycles above their heads and ran through a row of tires.

Before time was called, they climbed a rope and rescued a child from a burning building.

"By that time, your legs are pretty much rubber," Marti said.

The two bicycle patrol officers were not answering a police call. Their heroics came Sunday during the fourth annual Midwest Police Mountain Bike Competition in Omaha.

Marti and Worley, who are partners on the Lincoln bicycle patrol, earned first place in the contest. They donated the \$500 prize to the Santa Cop program, which gives toys and gifts to children who otherwise would receive nothing for the holidays.

The Lincoln police bicycle patrol team was created in 1989 to work the downtown area. Marti has been assigned to the bike patrol since its creation. Worley joined the team in 1993.

"We like to say we're the oldest bike patrol in the state of Nebraska. And it's true," Marti said.

"We have a lot of pride on the bike patrol."

Officers were taken through seven categories: obstacle course, bike toss, arrest maneuver exercise, one-mile race, balance beam, slow motion drill and a bike pull. Civilian teams also competed in the contest.

Marti and Worley finished first in the obstacle course, one-mile race and bike pull. LPD Officers Mike Bassett and Jeff Bocher tied for third.

"It was real gratifying," Marti said Tuesday.

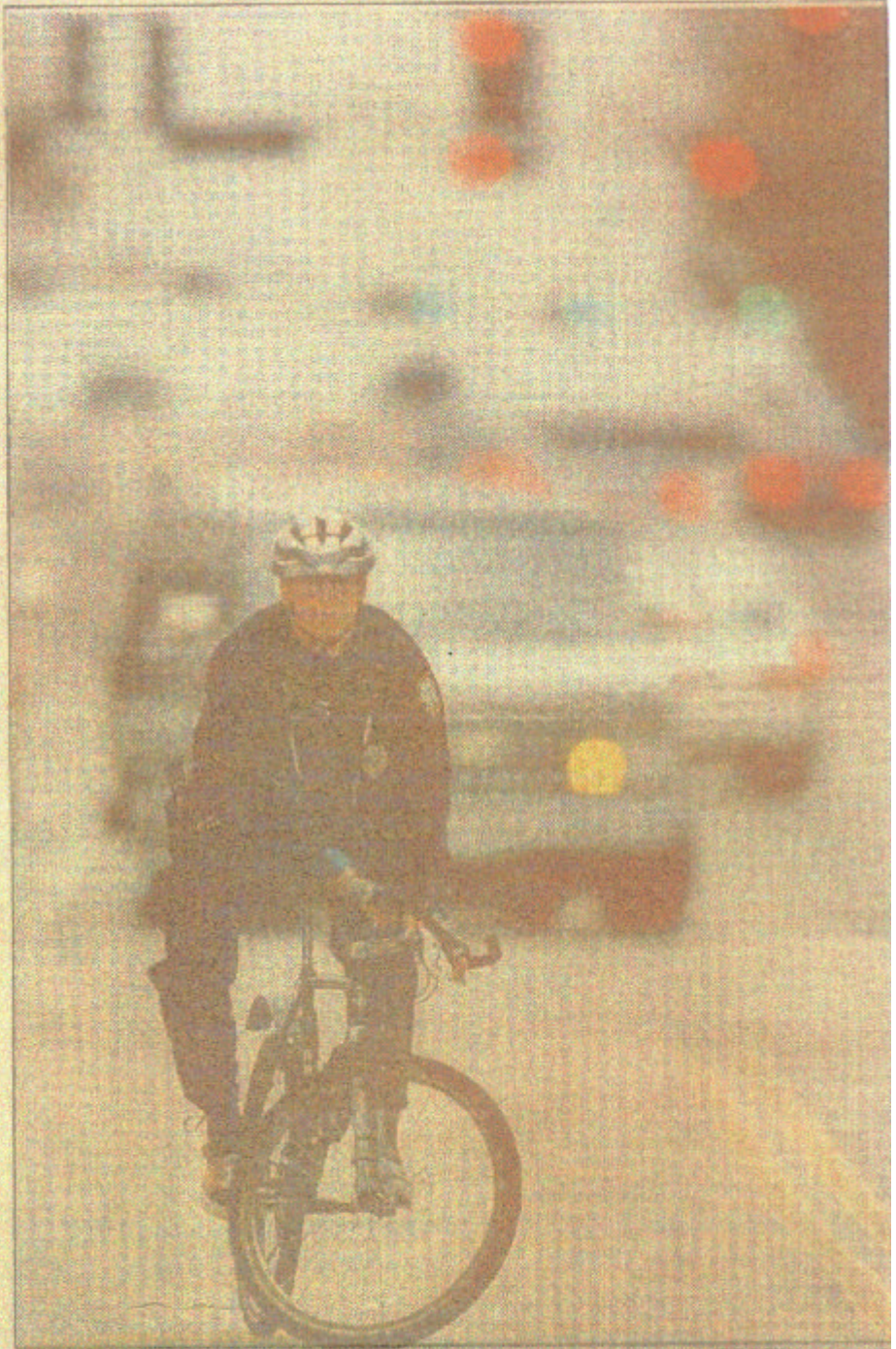
Twelve teams competed from departments in Omaha, Crete, Columbus, Bellevue, Topoka, Kan., and Overland Park, Kan. Three teams competed from the Lincoln Police Department.

"We're enormously impressed by their enthusiasm," Omaha police Lt. Mark Sundermeier said of the Lincoln officers. "They go everywhere together, they're like a wolf pack."

Sundermeier organized the race, which is an annual fund-raising event for Special Olympics. Aetna Retirement Services sponsored the contest.

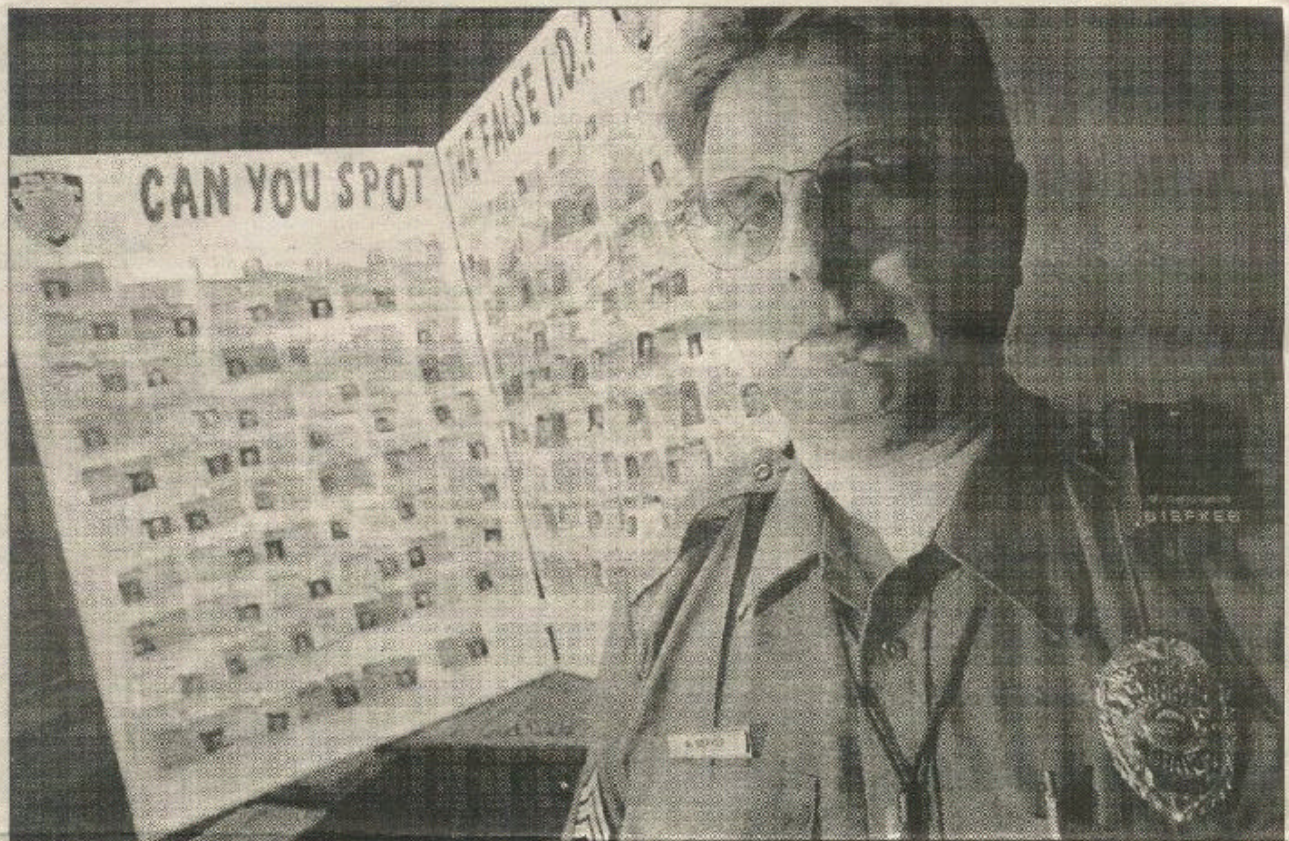
Marti said the competition is a good training exercise. He said events in the race come from circumstances officers actually face. The only difference, he said, is that all the races, chases and maneuvering are done back-to-back.

"All of the events were tougher than last year," Marti said. "They put a lot of things together. Everything was more grueling."



▲ "We have a lot of pride on the bike patrol," says Lincoln Police Officer Charlie Marti. Marti, along with Officer Lance Worley, won first place in the Midwest Police Mountain Bike Competition Sunday in Omaha.





Travis Heying/DN

**Bicycle patrolman Mike Siefkes stands in front of a wall of confiscated driver's licenses at the Lincoln Police Department.**

Lincoln police Cpt. Jim Peschong said bar owners should be aggressive against minors because the liquor commission highly scrutinized them.

If bars violate any of the state's liquor laws, including serving minors, they could be closed for 10 days, fined \$5,000, or, after multiple violations, lose their liquor licenses, Peschong said.

The Hurricane and Montigo Bay, two dance clubs downtown, closed their doors after losing their licenses last fall.

Lincoln police tried to help downtown bars last year by putting plain-clothed officers inside, in part to crack down on minors and fake IDs.

The "Badges in Bars" program, which lasted from October 1994 to October 1995, infiltrated 22 bars, he said. Police trained 87 door attendants and checked more than 5,000 IDs during the program, Peschong said.

The program netted 79 arrests for crimes ranging from fake IDs, fighting, theft, drugs, failure to comply with a lawful order, disturbing the peace and urinating in public.

"Badges in Bars" gave bars extra protection from minors with fakes and helped keep them away, Peschong said. Some nights, officers would confiscate 10 to 15 fake IDs.

"I think it has made students a little more cautious."

As police confiscated more fakes during the

program, they got closer to finding where they came from, Peschong said.

Police came so close to catching a student on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus who was creating fakes, Peschong said, that the forger closed his operation.

Using computers and copy machines, people can make fake IDs easily and inexpensively, he said.

"Modern technology can make things look better than they ever used to."

"People are really good at it, which leads them to believe they can get away with it."

## Bathroom bust

Police have many techniques to find if minors are using fakes, but the best way is talking to them, Peschong said. Officers will get information about them and double check to see if it's right.

Officers often will call a minor's parents if they doubt his or her age, Peschong said.

For an example, Peschong said if police see someone in a bar who they think is a minor drinking, they will ask that person for an ID.

If the ID proves to be a fake, the officer has a misrepresentation of age charge.

Police then will remind people that they can be arrested for providing false information if

they don't tell officers their real age, he said.

Instead of risking an additional charge, most minors tell the truth.

The maximum sentence for both providing false information and minor in possession is \$500, three months in jail or both.

But not all arrests for fake IDs are that easy.

Sarah Thiele, a sophomore business administration major at UNL, said she got caught using her fake ID — despite an attempt to get away.

Thiele said she was with friends at Woody's Pub one night. She had taken two sips of a drink when she saw a Lincoln police officer coming into the bar.

Thiele went to the ladies' restroom, but the officer stood outside, waiting for her.

Her friends came in and warned her, so she gave her fake ID to one of them.

A female officer entered shortly after and searched her, Thiele said. The other officer convinced Thiele's friend to surrender the ID, she said.

Thiele was arrested for minor in possession of alcohol, misrepresenting age and providing false information.

She bought her fake ID from a friend who looked like her, she said.

Although Thiele went through a pre-trial diversions program, she said she was angry and embarrassed about the encounter.

"I think there's far more important things in Lincoln than minors in a bar."